

Vehicle thefts in Delhi

964. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of vehicle thefts in NCT of Delhi have increased during the last one year;

(b) if so, what are the number of vehicles stolen as reported during the last one year;

(c) whether Delhi Police has not taken any steps to put permanent pickets on all major routes in order to check the rise in theft of vehicles; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The number of 1043 cases of vehicle theft were reported upto 15th February in 2007 as compared to 1032 cases reported during the corresponding period in 2006. This shows a marginal increase in the case of vehicle theft in 2007 (upto 15th February) over the corresponding period in 2006.

(c) Delhi Police has put strategic permanent pickets at borders and on all the major routes in order to check the cases of vehicle theft.

(d) The steps taken by Delhi Police to check vehicle theft include keeping surveillance on the Auto-thieves and gangs operating in the NCT of Delhi; monitoring closely the activities of recently released criminals of this category; setting up of Anti-Auto Theft Squad in every District especially to keep close watch on the activities of auto lifters operating in their areas, or to neutralize gangs involved in vehicle thefts; monitoring the progress of investigation by Senior Officers; setting up of check posts at all borders and briefing of the staff deployed there in this regard regularly; keeping close watch on the activities of suspected persons indulging in the vehicle thefts by Division Officers/beat Constables; deployment of Police personnel in plainclothes to collect Intelligence and apprehend the organized gangs of vehicle thieves; intensification of Motorcycle patrolling near parking areas during peak hours; exchanging of information with neighbouring States, compilation

and circulation of data regarding vehicle theft gangs operating in Delhi with their description and involvement; availability of information on stolen/recovered vehicles through Delhi Police Web-site; introduction of SMS service by Crime Branch in Delhi to facilitate recovery/linking of stolen vehicles; on-line exchange of information regarding crime including vehicle thefts/car jackers through Zonal Integrated Police Network with border Districts of Haryana, U.P. and Rajasthan.

Protection of witnesses

965. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 37 per cent people fear for severe harassment in going to witness box in courts with the result that the guilty/criminals are not being punished and set free;

(b) whether Government propose to frame any law or rules for protection of witnesses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Law Commission in its 198th Report on "Witness Identity Protection and Witness Protection Programmes" has recommended measures to provide protection to the witnesses. The contents of this Report are treated as confidential until the Report is laid in Parliament.

Development Board for Konkan region

966. DR. P.C. ALEXANDER: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have considered the unanimous resolution passed by both the Houses of the Maharashtra State Legislature on 20th February, 2005, recommending the establishment of a separate Development Board for the Konkan region of the State; and